

# Weather Forecast

Rain or wet snow, ending tomorrow morning; windy, cold tomorrow.  
Temperatures today—Highest, 35, at noon; lowest, 29, at 5:50 a.m. Yesterday—Highest, 42, at 3:20 p.m.; lowest, 28, at 8:35 a.m.

Late New York Markets, Page A-15.

# The Evening Star

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

# Guide for Readers

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## First Army Closes In on Duren; Two More Roer Towns Occupied; Patton Meets 11 Counterattacks

### Yanks Advance 1 1/2 Miles Along Super Highway

**BULLETIN.**  
WITH THE AMERICAN 7th ARMY IN ALSACE (P).—Hagenau, important communications and supply city 18 miles north of Strasbourg, fell to American troops today.

(Map on Page A-4.)

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, Dec. 11.—American 1st Army troops today drove within 2 1/2 miles of the Roer River citadel of Duren and advanced 1 1/2 miles along the Aachen-Cologne superhighway to Merken, 17 miles inside Germany and the deepest point of conquest.

Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' shock troops in fresh snowfall fought toward the flooded Roer on a 10-mile front.

Dhorn, 3 miles west, and Echz, 2 1/2 miles northwest of Duren, topped. Nearby Geich, Obergeich and Strass were taken yesterday.

Street fighting raged in at least five villages, the farthest of which was 5 miles from Duren. These were Pler, Merken, Gey, Merode and Schafberg. The Germans employed dug-in tanks and self-propelled guns at Gey.

11 Enemy Counterattacks.  
On the Saarland front to the south, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's 3d Army fought amid Siegfried Line defenses at Dillingen and Saarlautern, encountering ever-stiffening resistance which took on a fanatical character. Tanks and guns fired at the Americans from vantage points inside buildings and factories. In one place the main highway was being shot "Hell Hitler!" Every Nazi was killed.

During Sunday, Gen. Patton's 95th Division reported cleaning out 25 pillboxes, 30 fortified buildings and several dug-in tanks inside Saarlautern, which the Americans half won eight days ago. Third Army men also fought in the streets of Roden and Fraulautern beyond Saarlautern and in Sarreguemines.

At Merken, the 1st Army was within 22 miles of Cologne and astride the main highway which the Germans call an autobahn. The road crosses the Roer 3 miles north of Duren, a key city of 30,000, and then debouches into lesser roads in the flat rolling approaches to Cologne.

Force Way to Hagenau.  
On Gen. Patton's right, Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's 7th Army was at grips with the Germans on the east side of the big French base of Hagenau, into which the 79th Infantry Division forced its way yesterday. Heavy fighting raged at several places in the Hagenau area, including the streets of Reichshofen, a mile south of Niederbronn.

The 1st Army slogged through Dhorn. The Germans had vacated this village as well as Obergeich and Echz. Tanks played a prominent part in the new thrust.

To the north, other infantry formations still are fighting in the Duren area, where the Germans had tanks. Enemy armor also showed the approaches to Schopphen, where American infantry last was reported 500 yards away.

The 1st Army opened a new pre-dawn attack at 4:30 a.m. from the vicinity of Lucherberg and covered 2,000 yards, reaching the outskirts of Merken, close to the flooded Roer and 3 1/2 miles northwest of Duren.

Still Fighting in Gey.  
Contrary to reports late yesterday that Gey, 4 miles southwest of Duren, had been cleaned out, the Americans still were fighting for each house in that village.

Below Gey, the Germans in the first light today launched a counter-attack against Americans holding Strass. Front reports said the doughboys were holding the thrust.

The 35th and 28th Infantry Divisions of the 3d Army extended their lines in the center of the Western Front east of Sarreguemines, squeezing the Germans from some of the last bits of France in that sector.

No further progress was reported either toward the Saarland capital of Saarbrücken, 3 miles or so from American troops, or inside the nearby French rail center of Forbach. A front dispatch said the 3d Army held only about a fifth of Dillingen.

One additional man from the District area has been reported killed in this war. See "On the Honor Roll," Page A-2.

(See WESTERN FRONT, Page A-4.)

**Charles Town Results**  
FIRST RACE—Purse, \$500. 3-year-olds and up, claiming about 4 1/2 years.  
Sundar John (Edwards) 6.00 4.00 4.00  
Sir Islam (Lavoie) 7.00 4.00 4.00  
Not Alone (Gwynn) 7.00 4.00 4.00  
Time—1:21.52  
Also ran—Pallad, Uncle Ol. Rainbow, Tindoo (lost heat).

## Hunger and Threat of Epidemics Heighten Turmoil in Athens

ELAS Concentrations Around City Attacked By Big British Bombers for First Time

By the Associated Press.

ATHENS, Dec. 11.—Acute food shortages and the imminent danger of epidemics threatened Athens today as British heavy bombers for the first time in the week-long civil struggle attacked ELAS concentrations around the city.

RAP Wellingtons and cannon-firing Spitfires joined the sanguinary fighting—already reported to have cost the leftists 1,500 killed and 2,500 wounded—after an ELAS attack supported by mortars and artillery had been repelled yesterday by British troops using tanks and field guns.

Several shells fired from ELAS positions fell near British headquarters on the eastern outskirts of the city. Sniper bullets struck the Grande Bretagne Hotel, temporary seat of the Greek government on Constitution Square. One 75-millimeter shell struck British headquarters. The British replied with artillery and mortars.

Heavy rain curtailed action during the night, but fires started by shell-fire still were smoking today on the northern slopes of the Acropolis.

All unloading of relief ships at Piraeus, port of Athens, was at a standstill and UNRRA attempts to organize soup kitchens to relieve the stricken civilian population so far had failed. Large numbers of dead were still awaiting burial.

Strong forces of both sides were massed as efforts to mediate the crisis appeared to be meeting little success. The ELAS, armed militia of the left-wing EAM political party, (See GREECE, Page A-6.)

1,600 U. S. Bombers Drop 6,000 Tons on Reich Rail Centers

Co-ordinated Operation By 3 Air Forces Shakes Varied German Targets

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Sixteen hundred American heavy bombers and 800 fighters—the greatest fleet of four-engine aircraft ever mounted in aerial warfare—today raided Western Germany's rail centers with 6,000 tons of explosives.

The Fortress and Liberator fleet from the Britain-based United States 8th Air Force was part of a co-ordinated operation that shook the Reich with heavy bombers from all three air forces in the European theater.

British Lancasters and Mosquitos joined three German cities in the Ruhr before noon. Rail yards and a fuel plant at Osterfeld and refineries at Melderich and Bruckhausen were the targets.

Berlin radio reported bombers from the United States 15th Air Force over Austria and headed toward Southern Germany—the third raid from Italy in three days.

17,000 Men Over Reich.  
The size of the British-based force meant that almost 17,000 pilots, navigators, bombardiers and gunners were in the skies over Germany.

An 8th Air Force spokesman said every main rail line leading from industrial centers in Central and Southwestern Germany to German defenses in the west had been ripped apart by British and American bombs in the last week.

Today the 8th Air Force heavies bombed the main line rail centers of Frankfurt, nearby Hanau and Giessen.

One fighter group led the bombers and dived down to explode eight locomotives near Kassel.

All the targets were obscured in cloud and bombing was by instrument.

'Moderate' Earthquake In Pacific Recorded Here

The Georgetown University seismograph yesterday recorded an earthquake which seismologists said was "moderate" in intensity and probably occurred in the New Guinea area. Instruments showed the disturbance to be about 10,000 miles away, beginning at 1:31 a.m., reaching a maximum at 2:08 and ending at about 4 a.m.

The disturbance also was recorded on the seismograph at Fordham University in New York, where officials reported it was "almost certainly" in the Dutch East Indies.

Two additional shocks "not as strong as the recent Japanese one" also were recorded yesterday morning on the seismograph at the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena.

## Grip Tightened On Japs After Fall of Ormoc

Yanks Destroying Thousands Caught In Narrow Pocket

By the Associated Press.

GEN. MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Dec. 11.—Leyte Island's strategic sea-port of Ormoc was in American hands today—captured four days after surprise landings to the south—and three columns of veteran Yanks put a nutcracker squeeze on thousands of Japanese trapped in a narrow pocket by the action.

Ormoc was seized in mid-afternoon yesterday by the American 77th Division, which launched the knockout attack in early morning from the town's outskirts after a quick drive from beachheads established Thursday under naval and air cover.

The American 7th Division was less than a mile from Ormoc after making contact at Albura on the west coast with a column which came west over the hills from Burauen in Leyte Valley. In the corridor between these forces were thousands of Japanese facing destruction.

Gen. MacArthur reported in his command today: "Trapped and compressed into a narrow pocket by these three Allied columns, the enemy's forces in the southern segment of the Ormoc line, although many thousands strong, are unable to extricate themselves."

"They are being destroyed with little opportunity for effective retaliation," Gen. MacArthur said.

Dean Schedler, Associated Press correspondent with the 77th Division, wrote that Maj. Gen. Andrew Bruce's veteran outfit found opposition surprisingly light on securing a beachhead and, revising plans, immediately pushed toward Ormoc.

Light pockets of resistance at first. Later strong dugouts and pillboxes had to be destroyed.

Capture of Ormoc represents a heavy blow to the Japanese. It was vital to the enemy as a re-entrant port for his troops in the Ormoc corridor running through mountain country from Ormoc to Carigara Bay on the north. This corridor, on the northwest shoulder of the island, is Japan's last effective grasp on Leyte, which Tokyo considers the key to the Philippines campaign.

Small Port Still Held.  
The Japanese still have a small port facing the Visayan Sea. This is Palompon, 18 miles northwest of Ormoc.

Ormoc's seizure, wrote Associated Press Correspondent Murlin Spencer, "does not mean the Leyte campaign is concluded."

"There is still much heavy fighting to be done before Japanese forces both south and north of Ormoc are wiped out."

Ad Dopping of the Associated Press said the Japanese appeared to be retreating from the 7th Division, but were expected to make a desperate, final stand.

There was every indication the Japanese would make a fight for every inch of Leyte.

American fighter planes were active in combat over the fighting zone, and bombers scored effective hits on Central Philippines shipping and airbases.

A total of 268 tons of explosives blasted runways and other airfield installations on Cebu, Negros, Panay and Masbate islands in the Central Philippines. Two freighters were sunk and three damaged.

Heavy bombers raked the Brunel Bay waterfront at Borneo and hit the Miri petroleum refinery. Bombs and strafing set afire eight petroleum storage tanks, leaving a tower of black smoke 15,000 feet high.

5 Allied Ships Sunk, Jap Communique Claims

By the Associated Press.

Two large transports, a cruiser or large destroyer and two landing barges were rammed and sunk by Japanese airplanes in Surigao Strait southeast of Leyte Island in the Philippines, Japanese Imperial headquarters claimed in a communique today.

Destruction of a second cruiser or destroyer also was reported in the communique, recorded by the Federal Communications Commission. Six planes of the Tanshin Air unit of the special attack corps, the Japanese asserted, did all the damage.

## WPB Will 'Borrow' Workers to Produce Battle-Front Weapons

Loan of Manpower For 90 Days Sought In Industrial Centers

By JAMES Y. NEWTON.

A concerted drive in 100 industrial centers to "borrow" manpower for 90 days from commercial establishments and service trades, coupled with tighter labor regulations on less essential work, were counted on today by production officials to supply the 300,000 workers needed to bring munitions output up to battle-front requirements.

The plan to recruit workers for war plants on a loan basis from stores, banks and other civilian establishments was revealed by a War Production Board official shortly after War Mobilization Director Byrnes instructed Selective Service to return to work men aged 26 through 37 who are not employed in war essential jobs.

Intensive surveys will be made of all civilian employment in the 114 areas where war manpower is short.

Each employer of size will be requested to "loan" a specified number of employees, probably 10 per cent in most instances, to manpower short war plants. Period of the loan will be 90 days, which is considered the duration of the currently critical war production situation.

Women Also to Be Taken.  
On conclusion of the production emergency "loan" workers will be returned to their old jobs. Women as well as men will be taken, since many jobs now open in war work can be performed by female labor.

The campaign will be directed by local offices of the War Manpower Commission, assisted by WPB field workers and procurement officers of the Army and Navy.

The high WPB official said he believed there are thousands of men and women in civilian work who will be glad to contribute directly to the war, especially for the short time they will be needed. He said a "patriotic appeal" will be made to employers and employees alike.

Newspaper co-operation is counted on to "blast" recalcitrant employers with publicity should they refuse to go along with the program.

Mr. Byrnes' instruction to Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey, which actually was a warning to older draft eligibles to seek employment in war industry or face induction into the armed forces, was counted on to cut down appreciably the huge labor turnover that has plagued the war effort.

Two additional shocks "not as strong as the recent Japanese one" also were recorded yesterday morning on the seismograph at the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena.

12 Passengers Hurt In 'Olympian' Wreck

By the Associated Press.

WADSWORTH, Ill., Dec. 11.—Nine coaches of the second section of the Milwaukee railroad's Olympian, running as combination mail and day coach train between Chicago and Minneapolis, were derailed early today but each car remained erect and only 12 passengers were reported injured.

The train was traveling about 60 miles an hour when a burned-out journal box caused the derailment, railroad officials said. Only the engine and the first car of the 10-coach train remained on the tracks.

LULA, Ga., Dec. 11 (P).—Southern Railway officials sought today to determine the cause of a locomotive explosion which killed three trainmen near here yesterday.

Eighteen cars of the freight were derailed and 10 of them burned, said Chief Dispatcher J. F. Ayers at Greenville, S. C. Traffic was diverted over Seaboard Airline tracks while workmen removed the debris. The train was en route from Greenville to Atlanta.

Mr. Ayers identified the dead as Engineer J. G. Elliott, 56, of Atlanta; Fireman J. R. McCombs, 37, of Easley, S. C.; and Head Brakeman F. M. Mooks of Atlanta.



Movement Under Way Again on the Manpower Front

## Slattery Quits REA; Makes Heated Attack On Secretary Wickard

Charges Agriculture Chief With Illegal Acts By Bypassing His Authority

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has been guilty of "illegal acts" in connection with the administration of the Rural Electrification Administration, Harry Slattery, REA administrator since 1939, charged today shortly after the White House had announced Mr. Slattery's resignation.

The White House announcement said the resignation was effective as of last Friday. It was submitted to President Roosevelt on November 28, according to Mr. Slattery. No successor was named.

In a statement issued from his suite in the Wardman Park Hotel, Mr. Slattery said the situation in REA "has become indefensible and increasingly intolerable." He said he decided to leave the agency "in order to carry this fight to the public," inasmuch as a presidential order forbids Federal officials to engage in public controversies.

"By-passed and Displaced Me."  
Mr. Slattery accused Mr. Wickard of having "by-passed and displaced me" as REA administrator by investing most of the administrative power in a deputy REA administrator. Mr. Slattery identified the deputy as William J. Neal.

"These actions are illegal and contrary to the REA Act," Mr. Slattery said. "They also jeopardize the repayment of Government loans and are dangerous to the welfare and permanent success of REA."

Mr. Slattery's departure from the REA ended a controversy with the White House which began more than a year ago. At one time last spring, the dispute, revolving around Mr. Slattery's alleged attempt to oust Wickard, caused an open breach between Congress and the White House when Jonathan Daniels, administrative assistant to President Roosevelt, refused to testify before a Senate agriculture subcommittee.

Later, Mr. Daniels changed his mind and told the committee he believed the President was not satisfied with the work Mr. Slattery was doing as REA head and that in June, 1943, he had offered the post to the late Senator Norris, Independent, of Nebraska.

Mr. Daniels denied efforts were being made to get Mr. Slattery out of the country by offering him a diplomatic post abroad. He also told the subcommittee that (See SLATTERY, Page A-6.)

## Kweichow Cleared Of Japs, Chinese Say

By the Associated Press.

CHUNGKING, Dec. 11.—Japanese forces have been expelled completely from Kweichow Province and driven back over the Kwangsi border, the Chinese high command announced tonight.

Earlier, the Chinese said, one of two Japanese forces invading Kweichow had been swept back by the border by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces, which recaptured Liuchai, just over the border in Kwangsi.

This action left only the enemy column along the Yuyun-Ishan trail to be dealt with.

The high command gave no details of the withdrawal of this column along the trail east of the Kweichow-Kwangsi Railroad which at one time reached a point less than 70 miles from Kweichow, Burma Road capital of the province.

The communists announced only that enemy remnants around Lipo, 90 miles southeast of Kweichow, had been mopped up and Kweichow was now freed.

Domei, Japanese news agency, in a Tokyo broadcast today, declared Imperial troops who invaded Southern China from French Indo-China November 28 had effected a junction with Japanese forces in Kwangsi Province and established an overland link running all the way from Manchuria to Malaya.

The junction was effected yesterday in the Kwangsi Province town of Sullu by Japanese who crossed the Indo-China border at Langson, said the broadcast.

## Marine Held in Berrum Case Also Indicted in Lagoon Slaying

McFarland Charged In Fitzwater Murder, Holmes Absolved

Marine Pfc. Earl McFarland, already charged with murdering an 18-year-old Government clerk in East Potomac Park on October 5, was formally accused by the District grand jury today of the Pentagon lagoon slaying 11 days earlier of Mrs. Margaret Fitzwater, 63.

In returning the second murder indictment against McFarland, the grand jury also charged "Pop" Holmes, 56-year-old restaurant worker, who had been charged with killing Mrs. Fitzwater. Holmes has been in custody since several days after September 24, the Sunday the nude body of the widow was found floating in the water near his makeshift houseboat.

The 24-year-old marine, who is scheduled to go on trial in District Court January 8 on the indictment charging him with murder in the slaying of Miss Dorothy M. Berrum, was first suspected of the Mrs. Fitzwater murder almost immediately after he was arrested in the Berrum case. (See MCFARLAND, A-4.)

## Pentagon Fare Case Will Be Reviewed By Supreme Court

Jurists Also Will Pass On District Mann Act Transportation Issue

By J. A. FOX.

The Government today won a point in the fight to obtain lower bus fares for thousands of District residents employed in Departmental buildings in downtown Washington when the Supreme Court agreed to review the decision of a three-judge District court enjoining the Interstate Commerce Commission from making reduced rates effective.

In another local case the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether the Mann Act forbids the transportation of a woman solely within the District of Columbia for purposes of prostitution. The Court of Appeals has held that the offense is punishable under local statutes and not under the Federal law—a ruling serving to block Mann Act prosecutions here unless the Supreme Court overrules it.

The next step in the bus fare case is for it to be set down for argument before the Supreme Court.

## Four Lines Involved

The lower court held that the ICC was without authority in ordering a schedule calling for 10-cent cash fares or 8 1/2-cent commuter fares between the District and the Pentagon. Building area lines involved are the Capital Transit, Alexandria, Barcroft and Fairfax Motor Transportation Co. and the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Co., Inc. The commission order entailed a reduction of from 1 1/2 cents to 5 cents a trip and would relieve Capital Transit riders of paying an extra nickel.

In appealing to the Supreme Court the Justice Department said the commission had found the "nervous center of the war effort in this country," and that the present fare schedule was "a burden on the war effort."

Snow and Rain Forecast For D. C. Vicinity Tonight

Washington and vicinity are to be treated to a mixture of snow and rain some time tonight, it was predicted today by the official weather forecaster. The temperature was expected to remain around 35 degrees for the next 24 hours. Today's cloudiness will continue and the slight wind will increase in force, it was forecast.

In Southwest Virginia snow fell early today and in some sections a blanket of from 3 or 4 inches covered the ground and the highways, causing State highway officials to warn motorists to use chains. Trucks were assigned to spread cinders at dangerous spots in the highways.

## Raise for U. S. Workers Asked By Civil Service

Permanent Overtime Law Suggested in Report to Congress

The United States Civil Service Commission today urged Congress to raise the basic pay rates of Government employees and enact a permanent overtime pay law.

In its annual report, transmitted to Congress by President Roosevelt, the Commission also recommended that:

1. After the war, all Federal employees required to work on national holidays should be paid for such work at 1 1/2 times the rate for ordinary days.

2. Salaried Federal workers should be eligible for pay increases every 12 months in the lower-salaried groups and every 18 months in the higher-salaried groups, instead of every 18 and 36 months as at present.

3. Federal employees should be made eligible for unemployment compensation benefits, or else given a 90-day dismissal wage.

4. The time limit for a war veteran making application for re-employment should be extended from 40 days to 90 days after his discharge from the armed forces, or from hospitalization after discharge for a period of not more than one year.

The commission postponed submission of a review of its work, tradition in any report to Congress by a Federal agency, in order to give emphasis to its recommendations which, it declared, "should be out into effect at once."

Asserting that the Federal Government "must be the most progressive employer in the Nation," the report declared that upward revision of basic pay rates is necessary "to attract and hold personnel whose qualifications are above question."

Rates Not Raised in War.  
It recommended an immediate re-examination of basic rates of pay for salaried employees in order to determine what adjustments should be made as a result of the increases over a period of the past several years, in the cost of living.

The report pointed out that basic pay rates for most salaried Federal positions have not been increased since the war.

Conceding that the Government never can expect to compete on an equal basis so far as salaries are concerned with private employers in attracting high-grade personnel, the commission said that "persons who are willing to make monetary sacrifices in return for the privilege of serving all the people" in Government work should not "be expected to stand by and not receive adjustments in their basic pay structure in order to compensate for increases in the cost of living."

Pointing out that the present overtime pay law expires next June 30, the Commission urged that before then permanent legislation be enacted to:

1. "Authorize additional pay at (See CIVIL SERVICE, Page A-6.)"

## Reds Expel Four Members Of OSS From Bulgaria

By the Associated Press.

ISTANBUL, Dec. 10 (Delayed).—The Russians have expelled a four-man United States Office of Strategic Services team from Bulgaria for the second time since Bulgaria's surrender.

Allowed to return after an earlier expulsion, the four were told they must leave on the same grounds as before—that they were not officially accredited by the Russians.

On October 2 Cordell Hull, then Secretary of State, said an Allied military mission had been ejected from Bulgaria by a Russian command. The mission was said to have been expelled because it was believed the mission would re-enter the country as a result of arrangements by Washington and London with Moscow.

The mission went to Bulgaria to handle Anglo-American interests. Some authorities in Washington said the Russian military commander had not been properly advised.

## Operation Necessary On Bealen Woman

Nelson O. Sipe, 35, of 1402 Fifteenth Street N.W., held in a \$1,000 bond on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon on his wife, Mrs. Mary Louise Sipe, 33, an expectant mother, today was escorted to Gallinger Hospital by United States marshals, where he gave legal consent for an emergency operation on his wife, made necessary by the beating he is accused of administering.

Hospital attaches reported Mrs. Sipe's condition is "quite serious." She is suffering from a possible fracture of the skull, a ruptured eardrum and internal injuries.

The case against Sipe was continued in Municipal Court until January 11 pending outcome of Mrs. Sipe's condition. It was during his arraignment that an officer appeared to advise the court that hospital authorities had telephoned to request his consent for the operation on his wife.

Police said Mrs. Sipe was found on the sidewalk in front of her home last night at 10:30 o'clock, following an altercation which neighbors said had continued from 8 p.m. until 10:30. At the hospital she told investigating police that her husband had beaten her with his fists, a camera, a tin cup and several china plates. Mrs. Sipe was found by a soldier when she staggered from her home and collapsed.

Police said the Sipe apartment was littered with broken dishes and overturned furnishings when they went to arrest him.